

named the National State Trooper of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, State, and Provincial Division. Morris has demonstrated his dedication to serving his community, and this high honor is certainly hard earned and well deserved.

Hailing from Crittenden County, Trooper Morris graduated from the Arkansas State Police Training Academy in 2018 and began his career serving and protecting his neighbors and fellow Arkansans. As with all law enforcement positions, this role comes with considerable risk and uncertainty, which he understood and agreed to step into for the sake of public service.

Morris has shown his commitment to the people of Arkansas each day he puts on his badge and uniform, but exhibited incredible bravery on December 16, 2021, during an attempted traffic stop. While on patrol, Morris answered the radio call from the U.S. Marshals Service requesting assistance in the apprehension of a wanted fugitive believed to be armed and dangerous. Morris sprang into action and attempted to pull the suspect's vehicle over when he sustained a shot in the chest. After returning fire and calling for backup, the suspect was successfully apprehended.

Colonel Bill Bryant, director of the Arkansas State Police, said of Morris' heroism, "Trooper Spencer Morris is just one example of more than 500 other Arkansas state troopers, just like him, who set aside awesome risks to themselves each day to make their state a safer and better place to call home."

I am extremely thankful for Trooper Morris and his colleagues who patrol our State highways and serve Natural State citizens each and every day. It is because of their dedication and bravery we are able to travel across our beautiful State and feel safe on our roads, highways, and beyond.

Congratulations to Trooper Spencer Morris on this distinguished and prestigious honor. He represents the best of his community, his brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and our wonderful State. We are tremendously proud of him and celebrate this milestone in his career and protecting the Natural State.●

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Buffalo National River as we mark the 50th year since it was designated as our country's first National River. Enjoying wildlife and the outdoors is a way of life for residents of the Natural State, and the Buffalo National River has helped countless Arkansans do just that.

Congress formally afforded the Buffalo River Federal protection on March 1, 1972, to preserve its 135 miles of free-flowing river and conserve natural, scenic and scientific features like the deep valleys, towering bluffs, rugged wilderness, and beautiful landscapes of the

Ozark Mountains. That act has helped safeguard one of Arkansas' most prized gems for five decades.

This was the result of the leadership and vision of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, the longtime representative of the Third Congressional District. Using his position on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he helped protect the Buffalo River under the designation as a national river.

This incredible attraction welcomes Arkansans and travelers from all over the world, to take in the State's natural beauty.

From Big Bluff and Hawksbill Crag, to its famous herd of elk, images of the area are instantly recognizable.

The Buffalo National River provides something for everyone. Outdoor enthusiasts come to enjoy the excitement of the river, take in the beauty and serenity of the surrounding wilderness, and experience the friendliness of the Arkansas community. This unique, natural treasure has also been a steady source of economic growth and a staple of our tourism industry for years. Helping to grow businesses and communities, the Buffalo National River has contributed to the betterment of Arkansas in countless ways.

I am so thankful for all the men and women who have worked over the years to make this park what it is today and helped maintain it for all Arkansans to enjoy. It is because of these dedicated individuals and organizations that future generations will be able to experience the river's beauty and inviting atmosphere just as we do today.

In celebration of this historic milestone, an incredible group of park and community workers and volunteers has planned some great events throughout the year, and I am excited to follow along. Congratulations to all those, past and present, who have helped conserve and protect this iconic natural resource that has helped define and differentiate Arkansas for the last 50 years and many more into the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE "KAT" MILLER

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank COL Katherine "Kat" Miller for her years of service to the people of Nevada. She leaves behind a powerful legacy of public service and dedication to our military and Nevada's veterans.

Kat Miller grew up in Reno, NV, and after graduating from Reno High School embarked on a 34-year career in the Army and Nevada National Guard. Among her many contributions to our Nation's Armed Forces are her service on four continents and deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Kat was something of a trailblazer serving in multiple leadership positions and commanding thousands of staff as a military police brigade commander in the U.S. and Afghanistan and as the commander of the Depart-

ment of Defense's largest correctional organization. After retirement from the Army, she taught at the University of Maryland and the University of Nevada, Reno before becoming the director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services—NDVS—in 2013.

Nevada has benefited immensely from Kat's directorship of the NDVS. Under her watch, the NDVS made huge strides for our State's veterans. Notably, NDVS assisted the Governor and Nevada mayors in their efforts to reduce suicide among veterans and their families, created nine programs to support unique or at-risk veteran populations, trained hundreds of healthcare providers in understanding how dementia and the aging process affect the care of veterans, and created a program to help employers recruit and retain veterans.

Kat also successfully led the NDVS in applying for over \$70 million in Federal grants for veterans' programs, including for nursing home creation and improvements, cemetery expansions, disabled veterans sports programs, rural transportation initiatives, and telehealth equipment. Under Kat's directorship, the NDVS received five national awards for these innovative veterans support programs: the Nevada Veterans Advocate Program, the Nevada Veterans Legislative Program, the "Ask a VSO" Program, Operation Mission Ready, and the Patriot Employer Program. Furthermore, last year, Kat was appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee to help identify barriers to access to healthcare in rural areas and recommend solutions to the Veterans Affairs secretary.

The list of Kat's achievements and contributions to the State of Nevada and the U.S. Army goes on and on. I have no doubt that Kat's legacy of service will continue to leave a powerful impact on the lives of many veterans in Nevada for years to come. She has my deep thanks.●

#### REMEMBERING JOHN DiSTASO

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join Granite Staters in mourning the loss of John DiStaso, whose tenacious, in-depth, and effective political reporting reflected—and was a tribute to—New Hampshire's independent, skeptical, and engaged political culture.

John got his start in our State as a correspondent for the New Hampshire Union Leader. Beginning as a staff reporter in 1980, John rose to spend many years as the senior political reporter at the Union Leader, becoming an expert on the most pressing issues facing New Hampshire and the political campaigns that help define the Granite State and the Nation. Ending his tenure at the Union Leader in 2014, John later took his talents to WMUR, where he helped lead the station's political coverage.

For any of us who were the subject of his reporting, it was always clear that